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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. This report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/48 of 9 December 1991, in paragraph 9 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to study and report on the feasibility, including costs, of establishing an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme for national peace-keeping trainers to be administered by the Secretariat.

2. In approaching this matter, the following general considerations were borne in mind:

(a) United Nations peace-keeping operations have been given increasingly complex mandates, combining tasks requiring military expertise with others, such as monitoring civilian police and human rights, supervising or conducting elections, and verifying the implementation of agreements concerning other sectors of public policy. Training for such a broad range of tasks would require a similar range of specialists, and a fellowship programme covering all aspects of peace-keeping as currently practised by the United Nations would be large, costly and difficult to administer. Such a comprehensive programme is not at present considered feasible. This report therefore focuses on fellowships for trainers of military personnel, who account for the largest part of United Nations personnel deployed in peace-keeping operations;

(b) The United Nations approach to peace-keeping has always been an empirical one, emphasizing flexibility. While a set of tried and proved principles, practices and procedures has evolved over the years, they cannot be translated into fast rules and regulations. To try to do so would fail to take into account the wide range of conditions that may be encountered in the field. Practical experience, therefore, remains an indispensable qualification for those who are given responsibility for training military (or civilian) personnel for peace-keeping duties. In that connection, some 40,000

troops and military observers from 61 Member States are currently serving the United Nations in the field and their number will soon be close to 50,000. Many more have already completed tours of peace-keeping duty with the Organization. Those personnel represent a vast reservoir of experience on which their Governments can draw in training new troops and military observers.

3. In the light of these considerations, a fellowship programme for peace-keeping trainers should enable the participants, first, to inform themselves about the fundamentals of United Nations peace-keeping and, secondly, to study at firsthand United Nations peace-keeping practice in the field.

4. The fellowship programme could thus comprise the following components:

(a) Preparatory individual study in the home country, based on a syllabus provided by the United Nations;

(b) A two-week seminar in New York, based on the seminars the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has conducted in 1992;

(c) A one-month internship with a peace-keeping operation;

(d) A written report, which would give the fellow occasion for deeper reflection and provide the Organization with an indication of the programme's effect.

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/48, the programme would be intended for persons who are or will be involved in national programmes for the training of peace-keepers. Candidates would be nominated by their Governments. The usefulness of the programme would be enhanced if each Government nominated two candidates, who would be regarded as a team. Both candidates should normally be military officers, but one of them could be a civilian official, if civilians play an important part in the training programme of the Government in question. The fellows would be selected by the Secretary-General, giving priority to nominations from countries with little or no peace-keeping experience. About 20 fellows, that is, 10 teams of two, would participate in the programme each year.

6. The United Nations would bear the cost of travel and daily subsistence allowance of the fellows, as well as expenses for the seminar. Those costs are estimated at $15,000 per fellow. Their Governments would be responsible for insurance and would be required to assume responsibility in case of accident or other harm to the fellows. A stable financial basis would have to be established before the programme could be launched.